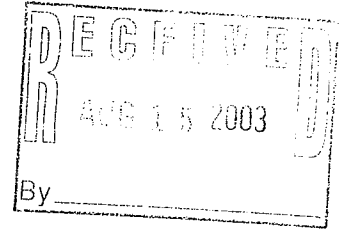


Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597



August 11, 2003

Mr. Philip M. Smithmeyer
Manager, Chicago Airports District Office
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Dear Mr. Smithmeyer:

Thank you for your recent letter dated July 18, 2003 regarding the city of Chicago and O'Hare International Airport. In your letter you invited the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to be a cooperating agency in the FAA's Environmental Impact Statement for expanding and realigning O'Hare International Airport. You also pointed out that representatives of IDOT would be consulted on a regular basis whether or not the department elects to be a cooperating agency.

Although the department appreciates your offer, we must respectfully decline. Representatives from the department's District 1 highway office and Division of Aeronautics will continue to monitor this project and provide comments when appropriate. We look forward to working with your office on the successful completion of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy W. Martin'.

Timothy W. Martin
Secretary